

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /161 W

----- 089738

R 230840Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0069

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

ZEPQAMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USMISSION NATO

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CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3081

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: SOARES COMMENTS NO NEW GOP

SUMMARY: FONMIN SOARES EXPECTS NEW CABINET TO BE MORE COHESIVE, WELCOMES DEPARTURE OF PEREIRA DE MOURA, AND SAYS MILITARY MEMBERS OF CABINET ARE ALL LIBERALS BUT NONE IS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST PARTY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES PROVIDED AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF GOP REORGANIZATION DURING MEETING JULY 18:

A) COMMUNISTS LOST ONE PORTFOLIO.

B) PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, A SORT OF "WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING" MOVEMENT HAD BEEN UNCEREMONIOUSLY ENDED BY DISCHARGE OF PEREIRA DE MOURA. CONVINCED (AND IN SOARES' OPINION CORRECTLY SO) THAT OPEN ADVOCACY OF COMMUNIST PARTY WAS KISS OF DEATH IN THE RURAL REGIONS, PEREIRA DE MOURA WAS ORGANIZING A MOVEMENT (MDP) TO ACCOMPLISH SAME RESULT WITHOUT CALLING MOVEMENT COMMUNIST. ENTIRE CABINET AGREED THAT IN THIS GOVERNMENT YOU WERE EITHER AN AVOWED COMMUNIST OR YOU WEREN'T AND THERE WAS NO PLACE IN CABINET FOR SUCH A MOVEMENT.

C) PPD LOST ONE MINISTRY.

D) SOCIALISTS LOST ONE MINISTRY (INFORMATION) BUT IN REALITY REGAINED ONE IN ITS PLACE BECAUSE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WHILE NOT MEMBER OF SOCIALIST PARTY, IS IN FACT A SOCIALIST.

E) REMAINDER OF CABINET MADE UP OF BRIGHT, COMPETENT, PATRIOTIC MILITARY MEN. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS IMPLYING THAT THEY HAD NO PARTY ORIENTATION. HE SAID HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS IMPLYING EXACTLY THAT. THEY ARE ALL LIBERALS BUT NONE OF THEM IS EITHER A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OR A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IN PARTICULAR HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WAS AN EXPERT POLITICAL THEORETICIAN, A LIBERAL, BUT NOT A COMMUNIST. HE ENDED SIMPLY BY SAYING AMBASSADOR WOULD SEE FOR HIMSELF WHEN HE TALKED TO HIM.

2. SOARES SAID THAT THE SOLE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY ALONG UNITED STATES' LINES AND THAT IT NEEDED AND HOPED FOR STRONG US SUPPORT, WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT.

3. SOARES EMPHASIZED THAT NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WAS MUCH MORE COHESIVE AND MUCH MORE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM IF HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE TRUE AS TO SUCH CONCRETE ISSUES AS ECONOMIC AND LABOR PROBLEMS, MENTIONING THAT WITH DISAPPEARANCE OF VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA PEOPLE COULD NOT HELP THINKING LEGISLATION IN THESE FIELDS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SUBJECT OF MAJOR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. WHILE HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC, HE REITERATED THAT THE THOUGHT NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD SUCCESSFULLY SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.
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TAGS: PINT, PO
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